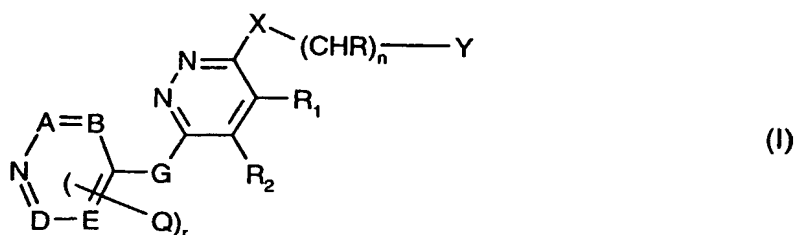


What is claimed

1. A method of treating myelodysplastic syndromes comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.
2. Method according to claim 1 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative of formula I



wherein

r is 0 to 2,

n is 0 to 2,

m is 0 to 4,

R₁ and R₂ (i) are lower alkyl or

(ii) together form a bridge in subformula I*



the binding being achieved via the two terminal carbon atoms, or

(iii) together form a bridge in subformula I**



wherein one or two of the ring members T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄ are nitrogen, and the others are in each case CH, and the binding is achieved via T₁ and T₄;

A, B, D, and E are, independently of one another, N or CH, with the stipulation that not

more than 2 of these radicals are N;

G is lower alkylene, lower alkylene substituted by acyloxy or hydroxy, -CH₂-O-, -CH₂-S-, -CH₂-NH-, oxa (-O-), thia (-S-), or imino (-NH-);

Q is lower alkyl;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa, or thia;

Y is unsubstituted or substituted aryl, pyridyl, or unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl; and

Z is amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, hydroxy, etherified or esterified hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, esterified carboxy, alkanoyl, carbamoyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, amidino, guanidino, mercapto, sulfo, phenylthio, phenyl-lower alkylthio, alkylphenylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl-lower alkylsulfinyl or alkylphenylsulfinyl, substituents Z being the same or different from one another if more than 1 radical Z is present;

and wherein the bonds characterized, if present, by a wavy line are either single or double bonds;

or an N-oxide of the defined compound, wherein 1 or more N atoms carry an oxygen atom, or the salt of such compound having at least one salt-forming group, to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.

3. Method of claim 2 wherein the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative of formula I is PTK787.

4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the disease is resistant to conventional chemotherapy.

5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the warm-blooded animal is a human.

6. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the total daily dosage of a compound of formula I is applied to the warm-blooded animal by administration of two separate units comprising the same or different amounts of the compound of formula I.

7. A combination comprising a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin D3, arsenic trioxide, erythropoietin, a medicament lowering the iron load, G-CSF and GM-CSF, in which the active ingredients are present in each case in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and optionally at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for simultaneous, separate or sequential use.
8. Combination according to claim 7 wherein the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative is PTK787.
9. Combination according to claim 7 or 8 for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes.
10. A method of treating myelodysplastic syndromes comprising administering a combination as defined in claim 7 or 8 in an amount which is jointly therapeutically effective against myelodysplastic syndromes to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a quantity, which is jointly therapeutically effective against myelodysplastic syndromes, of a combination according to claim 7 or 8 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
12. A commercial package comprising a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin D3, arsenic trioxide, erythropoietin, a medicament lowering the iron load, G-CSF and GM-CSF, together with instructions for simultaneous, separate or sequential use thereof in the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes.